

**LONGWOOD CITY COMMISSION**  
**Longwood City Commission Chambers**  
**175 West Warren Avenue**  
**Longwood, Florida**

**MINUTES**  
**March 2, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Mayor Matt Morgan  
Deputy Mayor Brian D. Sackett  
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker  
Commissioner Richard Drummond  
Commissioner Ben Paris  
Dan Langley, City Attorney  
David P. Dowda, Acting City Manager  
Michelle Longo, City Clerk  
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director  
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director  
Lee Ricci, Human Resources Director  
Lisa Snead, Financial Services Director  
Craig Dunn, Information Technology Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION.**
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Mayor Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
  - A. **Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital will sponsor the “Concert in the Park” Event on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. Music starts at 7:00 p.m. and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The band will be Caribbean Crew and this is a free event.**

- B. **The “Downtown Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
- C. **The City of Longwood will host the Annual Barkfest on Friday, March 13, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Arbor Park Dog Park, 1405 North Grant Street.**
- D. **The Mid-Florida Mustang Club’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mustang and Ford Round-Up will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**
- E. **The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

**5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

- A. **District #1 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for March 2020 to Taps and Caps Lounge, 190 South Ronald Reagan Boulevard.**

Commissioner Shoemaker read a brief biography on Mr. Lincoln Bhagwandass and then presented him with the Business Person of the Month Award for March 2020. Photographs were then taken.

**6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. None.**

**7. PUBLIC INPUT**

- A. **Public Participation.**

Johnnie D. Richardson, 1050 Alameda Drive, Longwood. He said he wanted to thank the Longwood Police Department and the Citizens on Patrol for their professionalism. They should be commended for going above and beyond their normal duty by performing Community Policing and residence House Checks to curb and prevent crime and break-ins. He noted they checked on his residence daily while he was on vacation for two weeks. It gave me a great piece of mind while out of town having this House Watch. I wanted to thank them for a job well done.

Judi Coad, 1695 Grange Circle, Longwood. She said she wanted to share with the Commission, before the final approval of the Church Avenue and Ronald Reagan Boulevard intersection project is done, that they look at the overall proposal. It was discussed at a Commission meeting when the plan was presented. The

proposed character and feel that was given out when this proposal was done was quoted as saying, “the proposed character feel was to be safe, relaxing, neighborly, quaint, timeless, and active.” She noted the basic layout of the project is fine. She addressed what the plan was to look like and noted the colors and the modern look along with the name of Longwood being a part of it. The modern design is going to be right in the middle of the historic area and does not seem to fit. She feels the plan with the same layout should be reviewed and redesigned to fit in the quaint area. When Reiter Park was being done it was designed to fit in the historic district with the arch ways and tree lined street. That did not happen and there seems to be no answer as to how it was changed. She said continuity is missing. You can look at other cities and see how they use continuity to tie the city together. She is requesting the Commission take the same layout and have the design fit into the quaint historical area before they spend over one million dollars.

## **8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT**

**District #5.** No report.

**District #1.** Commissioner Shoemaker said on February 19<sup>th</sup> she attended, along with Mayor Morgan and Deputy Mayor Sackett, a ribbon cutting at Adventures R Us Child Care for children ages two to five. She wished them a lot of success in their venture. This is a very much needed service in our area. They have a good program with art and music classes. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended a State of the County Luncheon with my fellow Commissioners. It was very informative and Seminole County is doing very well. A lot of other cities were present and it was nice to share situations and thoughts with them. Also on the 20<sup>th</sup> we attended a ribbon cutting at Kustom US. She is happy they decided to expand and stay in Longwood. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I attended Leadership Seminole’s class appreciation at Crossroads Corral. The reason for the Crossroads Corral fundraiser was so they could have more classes and sessions under shelter out of the weather. I spoke with Chief Dowda, but I did want to mention the Lewis House needs attention sooner rather than later before it is moved and deteriorates any further. This is a structure that needs to be saved.

**District #2.** No report.

**District #3.** Commissioner Paris said he had the opportunity to represent the business community in Seminole County on February 19<sup>th</sup> as the United Way presented a 1.1 million dollar check to the Sharing Center here in Longwood. Longwood’s best-known charity, the Christian Sharing

Center on U.S. Highway 17-92, is partnering with the United Way to start working with the Alice population. The Alice population are working people that sometimes have two jobs but they do not have any more than \$100 in savings, and any minor mishap in budgeting can actually destroy their entire budget. They have identified 45,000 families in Seminole County alone that are in this Alice category, meaning they are not prepared for any minor emergency. A lot of people think of Seminole County being the top four richest counties in the state, but we do have people that need help, and I like to know we are doing stuff to help them out. I missed the ribbon cutting on the 19<sup>th</sup> because I was filming a commercial for the upcoming Leadership Seminole Smack-Down/Show-Down on April 4<sup>th</sup> where our Mayor will be wrestling the Supervisor of Elections, Chris Anderson, for charity. We have raised over \$15,000 for this event, so we are very excited about it. He thanked Mayor Morgan for stepping in for this event. We had our State of the County on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Longwood was well represented with all of the Commissioners there, except Deputy Mayor Sackett, who was busy teaching our youth and our future leaders of America. It was a really great event that was completely sold out. He was told by multiple attendees that the very best 90-second speech about their City was given by their very own Mayor Matt Morgan. It was a very good week, he appreciates and enjoys being on the Commission.

**District #4.** Mayor Morgan said two Sundays ago, he was asked to be one of the guest judges for Northland Church's Third Annual Lip Sync Battle. It is made up of high school students competing from Lyman High School and Winter Springs High School. He wanted to give a huge shout-out to Northland Church's Jamila Millette, the Director of Youth Outreach and Community Engagement with Northland. She is doing an outstanding job. The kids did an outstanding job. They also celebrated Black History Month during a portion of the evening, as well as talked about their Youthful Offenders Ministry at Northland Church. The ministry works with kids that are in jail and they need that light and hope at the end of the tunnel. Even if the kids do not go to Northland, they are welcome at that Ministry. We are lucky to have her in our community. Two Friday mornings ago, I was invited to Fox 35 to do an appearance and it aired later that evening. It had to do with my transition from wrestling into politics. That same evening, I went to Lyman High School to throw out the first pitch at the boys varsity kick-off to their season game. It was 38 degrees, but was very well attended. I gave a very passionate speech at our Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce State of the County Luncheon where each Mayor gave a 90-second speech. We had a ribbon cutting at Kustom US, a premiere restoration company in Central Florida and throughout the Southeast region. They offer a full scope of services here in Longwood and the surrounding areas to help you minimize the

impact of any loss on your home or business and maximize the efficiency of the recovery process. For them to continue to choose Longwood is monumental. They could bring their business anywhere in the City and we will roll out the carpet for them. They are looking to do even more within the community and for charitable organizations so I was really glad to have an opportunity to chat with the CEO at the ribbon cutting. He gave a huge shout-out and congratulated M'Kayla Patterson, who is on the Lyman High School basketball team. She has scored 1,693 points. To put that in perspective, most high school All Americans in basketball, men or women, to score 1,000 is usually a milestone. This is usually done within four years of scoring, and for her to score that number is mind-boggling. It is an enormous accomplishment. He has asked to recognize her achievement and attend an upcoming meeting. He said he gave a keynote speech at Prairie Lake Elementary for the National Elementary Honor Society Student Induction Ceremony. These are fourth and fifth graders that are a part of this and out of the 250 students in that school, only 18 make this. This is a very big achievement for these young kids. Today, I read *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss at Altamonte Christian School. This past weekend, my wife and I were honored to represent Longwood at the Seminole State College's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dream Gala, presented by Addition Financial, a local business. Also, my wife and I celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past Thursday.

**9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA. None.**

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes of the February 17, 2020, Regular Meeting.**
- B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for February 2020.**
- C. Approve appointment of Mr. David P. Dowda as board member and Ms. Lee Ricci as the alternate board member for the Public Risk Management (PRM) Group Health Trust Board and the Public Risk Management of Florida Property and Casualty Pool.**

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Items 10A through 10C as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**11. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.**

**12. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 20-1524, which amends the fiscal year 2019/2020 budget and authorizes funds to cover purchase orders which rolled from fiscal year**

**2018/2019 for CIP Projects or grants; to true up fund balances and make other necessary adjustments to the budget.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 20-1524 by title only.

Ms. Snead presented the Item and noted this is an amendment to the budget. An amendment actually changes the bottom line of the budget. She said after we close out the fiscal year and start our new one, we look at what we actually have left in cash from the old fiscal year and we true up to reconcile that. Also, with Capital Projects, we are estimating when putting the budget together. We estimate how much we think we are going to spend last year and how much we are going to need this year. Capital Projects do not get depleted in one year. They roll over multiple years, so doing this process allows us to keep the projects moving and not be interrupted by a fiscal year. She noted there is a summary in the agenda memo on each of the funds that were affected and the resolution exhibit identifies the different types of adjustment. She addressed the utility fund and stated it does have a negative reserve. We have done a utility rate study which has identified a need for an increase for the future. A lot of local governments, recognizing the fact costs continue to escalate for running water systems, will adopt a rate increase indefinitely as opposed to just a set number of years. In Longwood, we did not increase the rates at all and got into a deficit position. Five years ago we did a study, and identified the shortfall and put in a rate increase but only for five years. She said this is something we are going to have to address. She answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Paris moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-1524 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**B. City Commission approval to sell the former Flea World Electronic Sign.**

Mr. Capizzi presented the Item. He said if the sign sold we could get around \$5,000. He answered questions and confirmed there is no location in the City to place the sign.

It was the consensus of the Commission by a unanimous voice vote to approve staff to sell the Former Flea World sign.

**C. City Commission to appoint Senior Advisors Pam Brangaccio and William Neron of International City/County Management Association (ICMA) as the committee to recommend City Manager candidates.**

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 12C as presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dowda said the Clerk has contacted the Commission about a preliminary Budget Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. He asked what time they would prefer, 4:00 or 4:30 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Dowda said they have received word that Duke Energy will begin the process of installing street lights on Ronald Reagan Boulevard (County Road 427) and Church Avenue. That will happen within the next two weeks. He said you may be familiar with the name of Dr. Don Rockwood, he was instrumental in the cloning process of The Senator we have in Reiter Park. He examined the tree for us and said it was in very good health. The recruitment process for the City Manager is progressing. As of today, our Human Resources Department has received 53 resumes, and they are in the process of screening them and will go to the ICMA once they are screened. The members of the committee that will review the proposals for the Vehicle Damage Recovery Services have been selected, and they are Shad Smith, Mike Peters, Lt. Ryan Bruce, and Ms. Lee Ricci. The Request for Proposals has been drafted and reviewed by the Committee, and will be sent to Mr. Langley for review. It will be advertised for thirty days. We did receive a claim check from a crash that occurred in November of 2018 for a total of \$525 that will result in a check to the City for \$262.50. He reminded everybody about the employee event on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Reiter Park, which will begin with a dodgeball game at 5:00 p.m. We received very generous sponsorships from Iberia Bank and H.D. Roofers, so we want to thank them for their sponsorships. This month, members of the Police and Fire Departments will be taking training exercises with the Seminole County Emergency Management Team, including all the other Seminole County emergency responders and hospital representatives, in order to be prepared for the coronavirus, should we experience an outbreak in our county. These types of joint trainings are routinely conducted to ensure public safety personnel are prepared to function efficiently during a major event of any kind, whether it be a hurricane or something of this nature. This

training will focus specifically on the coronavirus. We have circulated information on being prepared and preventative measures to our staff internally, as well as through social media and other means to the public. These are basic sanitary steps you would take for the flu, but we felt it was important to make the public aware.

**A. Leisure Services Department Report.**

Mr. Capizzi gave an update on his department and everything is going great. We have a lot of great pictures and appreciates everything the Commission does. He said they maintain a total of nine different parks, six pocket parks and neighborhood parks, and one dog park. We oversee a lot of recreation programs and are looking to add more recreational programming. He listed some of the different classes they offer, as well as their summer camp. They are working with Community Services in developing more programs for seniors. We plan and organize over 25 yearly events, which is a huge difference than when I started working in Leisure Services when we only had about six or seven big events. We have the venue for it now and we are using it, and that does not include our weekly and monthly events like the Food Trucks and Senior Matinee. We oversee the Community Building, the city mowing contract, landscape and irrigation maintenance, our parks, the special assessment program, and maintain the Longwood SunRail Station, excluding the platform. We partner with Longwood Babe Ruth for baseball and softball at Candyland Park. We have been doing that for a long time. In the middle of summertime Leisure Services has as many as 20 employees. That includes seasonal staff. We have several part-time, full-time, and seasonal staff members for the Leisure Services Department. All these people are vital in helping us maintain facilities and run programs. We have a Parks Supervisor, a Recreation Coordinator, a Building Coordinator, and we have various people under them to help run the various facilities. He showed a picture of Candyland Park about 12 years ago and then showed a picture of Candyland Park now and the difference between the two pictures, such as field improvements, lighting improvements, and landscaping improvements. He showed the brand-new playground equipment and the skate park as well as the brand-new pump track. He has been getting emails from people all over the country asking how they can go about getting a pump track. We are pioneering that because there is no other pump track in Central Florida. He showed older aerial photos of the property where Reiter Park is located. His pictures progressed through the years and showed the developments that came through time until the present. He mentioned how great the Farmers Market is



**This Page Left Blank Intentionally.**